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Message Text

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13
ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CG-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COA-02

COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19

AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01

OIC-04 DRC-01 /219 W
---------- 085736
R 191422Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7154
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2765

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, UN, SA
SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: SAG HAS NAMED ITS DELEGATION TO LOS CONFERENCE. IT WILL BE HEADED BY ASST. DEPMIN COMMUNICATIONS FAYSAL SHUHAIL. SHUHAIL SEES CONFERENCE AS VERY IMPORTANT AND TERRITORIAL SEAS AND STRAITS AS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES. SAG TENDING SUPPORT FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN STRAITS AS BEST SUITING SAUDI INTERESTS. ARABS TO MEET BEFORE CARACAS BUT COMMON POSITIONS ALL ISSUES UNLIKELY. ACTION REQUESTED: CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDE INFORMATION ON (A) IRANIAN POSITION ON STRAITS WHICH

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CAN BE PASSED TO SAUDIS; (B) COMPOSITION US DELEGATION;
(C) WHAT IF ANY STATES INTERESTED IN PROVIDING HEADQUARTERS
FOR ORGANIZATION WHICH MAY BE CREATED AT CARACAS.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED SAUDI ARABIAN
DELEGATION TO THE CARACUS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

FAYSAL SHUHAIL - ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND CHIEF OF DELEGATION.
MOHAMMAD MADANI - FOREIGN OFFICE LEGAL ADVISOR.
JAWWAD SAKKA - MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM LEGAL ADVISOR.
MAZYAT AL MAZYAT - MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.
DR. MUNIFI (FNU) - MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.
DR. HASHEM DABBAGH - MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SAID AMUTI - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.
CAPTAIN WASSIM GHALI - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.
LCDR TALAL SALEM - MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH DELEGATION CHIEF SHUHAIL IN RIYADH MAY 15.
SHUHAIL SAID THAT LIKE USG, SAG REGARDS THE CONFERENCE AS
OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. ALMOST UNHEARD OF SIZE OF THE SAUDI
DELEGATION IS INDICATION OF THIS, HE SAID.

3. SAUDI DELEGATION MET TOGETHER MAY 14 FOR FIRST TIME
AND WILL HOLD SEVERAL ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN NEXT
WEEK OF SO TO DISCUSS LOS ISSUES. SHUHAIL SAID THAT THEY
HAD ALREADY REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT TERRITORIAL SEAS
AND STRAITS QUESTIONS WERE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT. HE AGREED
THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND THE US SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IN ENSURING
UNIMPEDED INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION, SAUDI POSITION ON
STRAITS TENDING TO FAVOR FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON RATHER
THAN INNOCENT PASSAGE IN STRAITS. SHUHAIL ASKED IF WE COULD
INFORM HIM OF ACTUAL OR PROBABLE IRANIAN POSITION ON STRAITS
ISSUE. WE PROMISED TO TRY TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION FOR HIM
NEXT WEEK.

4. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES, SAUDI ARABIA
UNLIKELY FOLLOW ITS NORMAL BEHAVIOR AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
BY GOING ALONG WITH AN ARAB CONSENSUS. ARAB LOS DELEGATIONS
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WILL MEET JUNE 10 BEFORE GOING ON TO CARACAS BUT HE IS NOT
OPTIMISTIC COMMON POSITIONS WOULD BE ADOPTED. PDRY AND IRAQ
FOR INSTANCE ARE AT OPPOSITE POLES AS REGARDS STRAITS
ISSUES WITH FORMER INSISTING ON RESTRICTIVE DEFINITION OF
INNOCENT PASSAGE AND LATTER ON FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION.

5. SHUHAIL HAS BEEN REGULAR SAUDI DELEGATE TO IMCO (SEE
JIDDA A-40 FOR BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION). HE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT

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WHO WOULD BE ON US DELEGATION AND WHETHER IT WOULD CONTAIN ANY OF HIS US COLLEAGUES FROM IMCO MEETINGS. IF POSSIBLE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON US DELEGATION BEYOND THAT CONTAINED STATE 74811.

6. SHUHAIL ALSO INQUIRED IF IT TRUE THAT JAMAICA HAD PROPOSED ITS OWN CANDIDACY FOR HEADQUARTERS OF ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO BE ESTABLISHED AFTER LOS CONFERENCE. HE ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER ANY OTHER COUNTRY HAD PUT FORTH A BID TO HAVE HEADQUARTERS ON ITS TERRITORY. WE SAID WE WOULD LET HIM KNOW. HORAN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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